

CADET CONNELL, SPACE ADVENTURE

Episode 3: Stowaway!

An original radio drama by

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## CADET CONNELL - EPISODE 3

### CAST

ANNOUNCER	
CONNELL	Cadet Connell, cadet on a space mission
STOWAWAY	Stowaway on the Frigate Friedman
THOMPSON	Cadet Thompson, another cadet on the space mission
IRVINE	Engineer Irvine, engineer on the space mission
CAPTAIN	Captain of the Frigate Friedman

We have cast:

STEPHANIE as ANNOUNCER  
REBEKA as CONNELL  
CAROL as STOWAWAY  
MARISSA as THOMPSON  
ANDY as IRVINE  
RYAN as CAPTAIN

### SYNOPSIS

This is modeled after a classic 1950s radio drama. We join the story in the 3<sup>rd</sup> episode. In this episode, Cadet Connell and his shipmates confront a stowaway on the Frigate Friedman. The ship is now stranded around a star that is about to go supernova.

SCENE ONE: INT. SHIP'S MESS - DAY

(ANNOUNCER, CONNELL, STOWAWAY, THOMPSON, IRVINE, CAPTAIN)

MUSIC: Dramatic opening music

ANNOUNCER: (DRAMATICALLY) Thank you for joining us for this week's episode of Cadet Connell, Space Adventure. Today's episode is brought to you by Supernova Cola. When you need energy in a hurry, grab a Supernova Cola; it's no ordinary nova.

SOUND: Spaceship engine in the background of the narration and action.

ANNOUNCER: When we left Cadet Connell and her friends, they were aboard the Frigate Freidman in orbit around Eta Carinae, a giant star nearing the end stages of its life. The crew had just discovered a stowaway hidden in the ship's mess hall.

SOUND: Scuffle - thump of something heavy against a metal wall.

CONNELL: (ANGRY; HOLDING A STRUGGLING STOWAWAY AGAINST THE WALL) Who are you? What are you doing on our ship?

STOWAWAY: (GRUNTING) Let go of me!

THOMPSON: Connell, look, her hands are greasy. She's been into something on the ship.

SOUND: Two more thumps of a body against a metal wall in quick succession.

CONNELL: (SHOUTING) Why are you here? Who sent you?

SOUND: Loud mechanical noise. Spaceship engines shut off. Red alert sounds.

STOWAWAY: (LAUGHING) It doesn't matter now. You're too late to do anything. We're all goners.

SOUND: Running footsteps, slowing to a stop.

IRVINE: (OUT OF BREATH) Connell...Connell, check it out - someone drained all the liquid gamma particles from our space drive. The engines shut down just before they overheated.

SOUND: Another thump of a body against a metal wall.

CONNELL: (DELIBERATELY TO STOWAWAY) What've you done?

STOWAWAY: You heard your engineer.

CONNELL: (QUIETLY) But, that's crazy. This star is about to explode. (LOUDER) And it's not going to be a small explosion - it's going

to be a supernova. (LOUDER STILL) We'll all  
be burned up.

STOWAWAY: That's the plan.

THOMPSON: (TO STOWAWAY) But, you'll be caught in it,  
too.

IRVINE: (TO STOWAWAY) Was someone waiting for you?  
(AFTER A FEW BEATS) Watch her clam up. It's  
a sure bet she has someone waiting.

SOUND: Intercom chirp.

CAPTAIN: (OVER INTERCOM) Cadets, we are observing  
increased activity from Eta Carinae. We need  
to get a move on out of this system before  
she goes supernova. Any status from  
engineering?

CONNELL: (INTO INTERCOM) Captain, Connell here. We  
have captured the stowaway. I might have a  
plan to get us out of here.

CAPTAIN: (OVER INTERCOM) We don't have much time,  
Connell.

SOUND: Intercom chirp.

THOMPSON: What'ya got, Connell?

CONNELL: If our stowaway's ride is still in the system, we'll hitch a ride.

SOUND: Scuffle.

IRVINE: (OVER EACH OTHER) Where're you going?

THOMPSON: (OVER EACH OTHER) I don't think so...

CONNELL: (OVER EACH OTHER) Stop her!

SOUND: Scuffle, followed by running footsteps fading into the distance.

CONNELL: Follow her! Get her back.

Music: Episode closing music, announcer speaks over the music

ANNOUNCER: Will Cadet Connell and his mates find a way out of the Eta Carinae system before the star goes supernova? Find out on the next explosive episode of Cadet Connell, Space Adventures.

MUSIC: Closing music

CREDITS: This piece is a product of the Cosmic Times Team at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. The performance was produced by the 2009/2010 Chesapeake High School Media Production Club, WCHS, in

Pasadena, Maryland. Featured were the voices of Stephanie, Rebeka, Carol, Marissa ,Andy, and Ryan. We'd like to give a special thanks to Ms. Geri Cvetic, the faculty advisor for WCHS. More information about Cosmic Times and the topics in the piece can be found on our website, [cosmictimes.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://cosmictimes.gsfc.nasa.gov).

THE END.

## Notes for Cadet Connell, Space Adventure

### Pronunciation notes:

- Frigate: fri-git (the "i" in "fri" is the same as the "i" in "hit")
- Freidman: freed-man
- Eta Carinae: et-a car-een-ah
- Saboteur: sab-oh-tour

### Sound effects:

This one will need some cool sound effects to work well:

- Opening music; probably some music behind some of the action
- Random spaceship noises as a background
- Scuffle noises; hopefully a bit different each time, though the general noise should be the same
- Spaceship engine cutting out
- Red alert noise
- Running footsteps slowing to a stop
- Intercom chirp or ring
- Random scuffle as stowaway escapes
- More random spaceship noises (could be the same as above)
- Closing music

### Casting note:

In a true '50s-style drama, all the voices would be male; however, I see no reason that needs to be the case here. Any of the parts could be played by either a male or female voice; as long as the (over-) acting is there.

### Sources:

- Cadet Connell is based on Tom Corbett, Space Cadet, a classic science fiction character from the '50s - there were Tom Corbett novels and radio dramas. Here's the Wikipedia page: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom\\_Corbett,\\_Space\\_Cadet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Corbett,_Space_Cadet) (There are also some classic radio programs on one of the iTunes podcast channels, if you want to get a feel for the '50's radio programs)
- Eta Carinae is a real system, 1950s astronomers knew about it, and suspected that it was close to going supernova. It still has not gone supernova, but is a favorite topic of study of one of our Goddard colleagues. Here's the Wikipedia page about it: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eta\\_Carinae](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eta_Carinae)